

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Currently, claims 1-13 are pending in this application. Claim 8 has been amended merely for editorial reasons.

**Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112:**

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. With respect to this rejection, the Office Action states “Examiner could not understand exactly the limitation of this claim.” Applicant respectfully submits that claim 6 is in full conformance with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claim 6 depends from claim 3 and further requires that the event detecting means recited in claim 3 comprises a voicemail system and that the predetermined event recited in claim 3 comprises storage by the voicemail system of a voicemail intended for the subscriber of the subscriber line (recited in claim 1). In particular, if a voicemail is stored on the voicemail system, the flag in the switching system is set to ensure that calls are handled by the enhanced services switching system. However, if no voicemail has been stored (and assuming that no other event which requires the use the intelligent network has occurred), then the flag in the switching system is not set and the call is handled as a simple switched call with no intervention from the enhanced service processing apparatus. It is therefore not necessary for the switch to institute a check in the enhanced services system every time the line is used to see whether a voicemail is awaiting the user.

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103:**

Claims 1-6, 8-9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Takeda et al (U.S. '412, hereinafter "Takeda"). Claims 7 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Takeda. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

For a reference to anticipate a claim, each element must be found, either expressly or under principles of inherency, in the reference. In order to establish prima facie case of obviousness, all of the claimed limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. Applicant submits that Takeda fails to disclose or even suggest all of the claimed elements. For example, Takeda fails to disclose or even suggest performing a selection of processing according to whether occurrence of a predetermined event associated with a subscriber line has been recorded by a detection means of a switching center, as required by independent claim 1 and its dependents. Similarly, Takeda fails to disclose or even suggest recording the occurrences of one or more predetermined events at a telephone switching center, the event(s) being associated with a subscriber line connected to the switching center and performing processing based on whether or not it is determined that a record of an occurrence of one or more of the predetermined events exists at the switching center, as required by independent claim 8 and its dependents.

Takeda was cited as document "D5" in the International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER) for corresponding international application no. PCT/GB99/02492. The

Not claimed in  
1 \*

direction of  
Takeda  
inherent: detecting 1-800  
etc. 555...

IPER states, *inter alia*, "Claim 1 thus meets the requirements of Articles 33(1)-(4) PCT with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability." The IPER further states "Claim 8 thus meets the requirements of Articles 33(1)-(4) PCT with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability."

Takeda discloses a service control point (SCP1) that can be unconditionally activated. (See abstract). Col. 4, lines 60-63 of Takeda indicates that each switching system 3 has the function of distinguishing between those calls ("IN call") which need to gain access to the SCP1 and those calls (basic calls) which do not require such SCP access inside each switching system 3. This requires that each switching system 3 distinguish between different call types. In this regard, Takeda is similar to the third approach discussed on page 1, lines 25-30 of the background of the present application in which a switching center has to identify whether an incoming call is of a type which requires enhanced processing. Takeda thus has the disadvantages associated with that type of system, namely that there is often a lot of traffic between the switching centers and the enhanced service processing apparatus including notifications of call connection establishment attempts and "proceed as normal" commands. This extra traffic and extra processing carried out by the enhanced processing apparatus can impede the efficient operation of the enhanced services processes.

\* The present invention resolves this problem. In particular, the present invention requires that calls be handled in a way that is not dependent on any characteristic of an individual call, but rather is handled according to whether a predetermined event has been previously recorded in the switching center. The calls are thus handled by the enhanced

service processing apparatus or they are selected (or terminated) without the involvement of the enhanced service processing apparatus based upon the recordation (or non-recordation) of the predetermined event in the switching center. The switching center thus merely needs to determine whether a predetermined event has been recorded (e.g., determine whether a flag has been set) to determine a processing operation (based on whether or not the predetermined event has been recorded). This reduces the number of calls which have to be referred to the enhanced processing apparatus without requiring the switching system to be able to distinguish between individual call types. This removes all of the complexity in the switching system that Takeda requires, for example, in col. 6.

With respect to claim 1, Applicant notes that the event detection means and the call processing means are separate items. The event detection means merely causes recordation of the occurrence of the predetermined event which determines whether or not the call processing means refers to the enhanced service processing apparatus. The switching center does not need to distinguish any individual call types from each other. This reduces the complexity of the switching center and reduces the complexity of the required interface between the switching center and the enhanced service processing system.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are neither anticipated nor "obvious" over Takeda and respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

**PETTIFOR et al.**  
**Application No. 09/743,702**  
**May 27, 2004**

**New Claims:**

New claims 12-13 have been added to provide additional protection for the invention. New claim 12 requires, inter alia, a call processor of a switching center, responsive to an attempt to establish or terminate a call connection via a subscriber line, to select a processing operation without requiring the switching center to be able to distinguish between individual call types. Claim 13 requires, inter alia, "determining whether a record of the occurrence of one or more of said predetermined events exists at the switching center without distinguishing between individual call types." Claims 12 and 13 are believed to be allowable.

**Conclusion:**

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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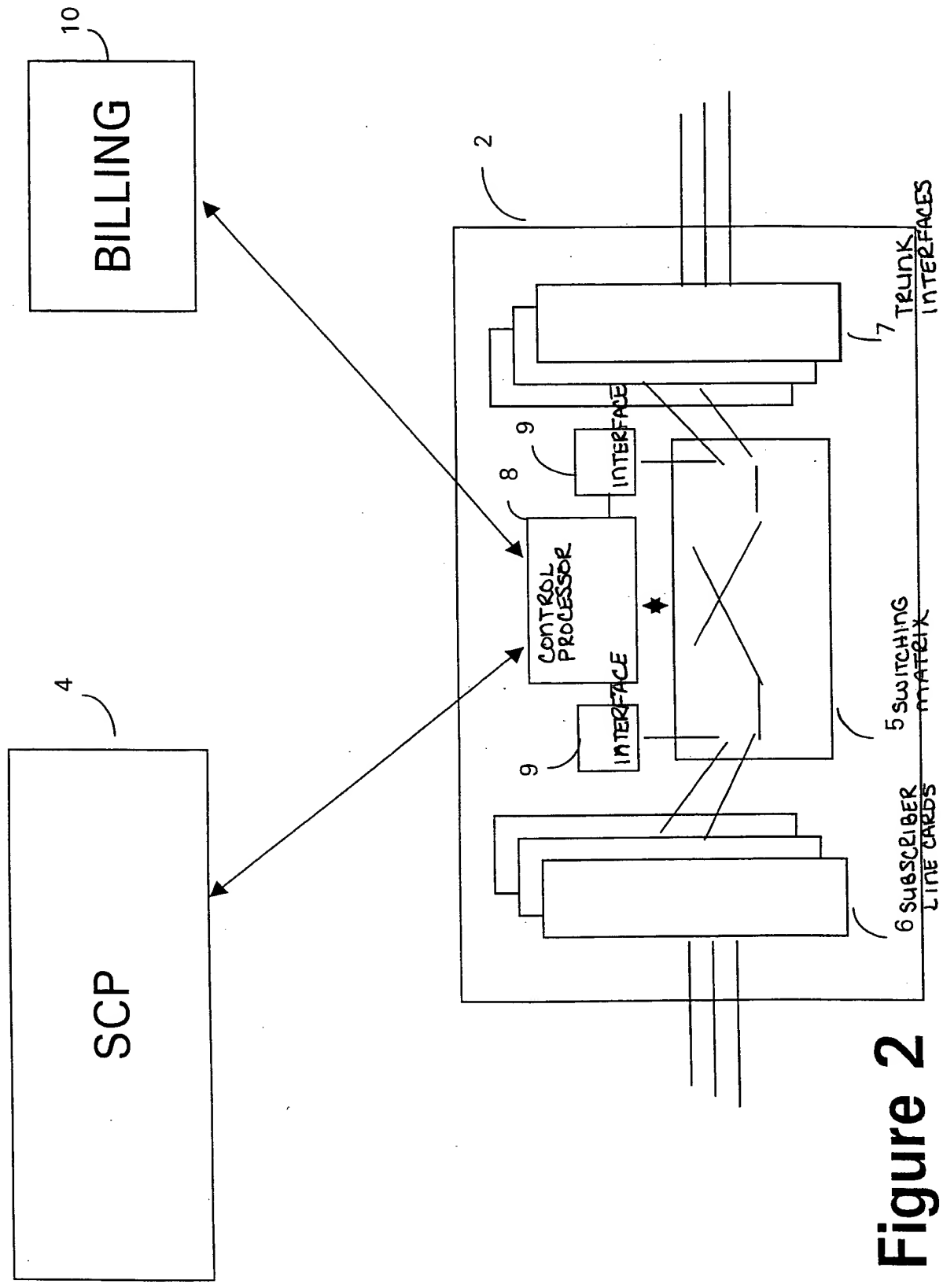
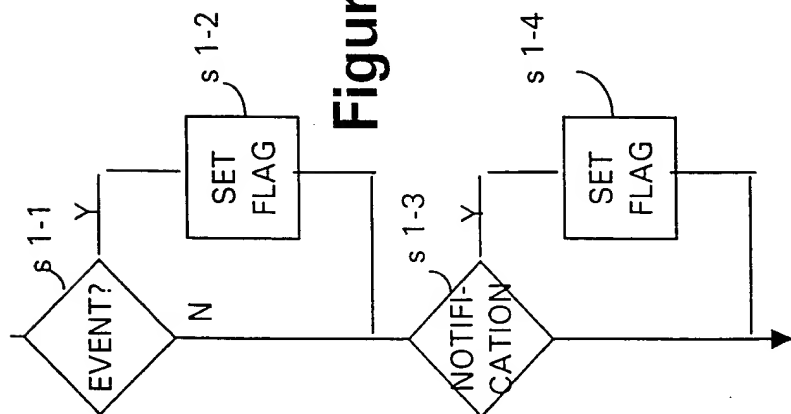
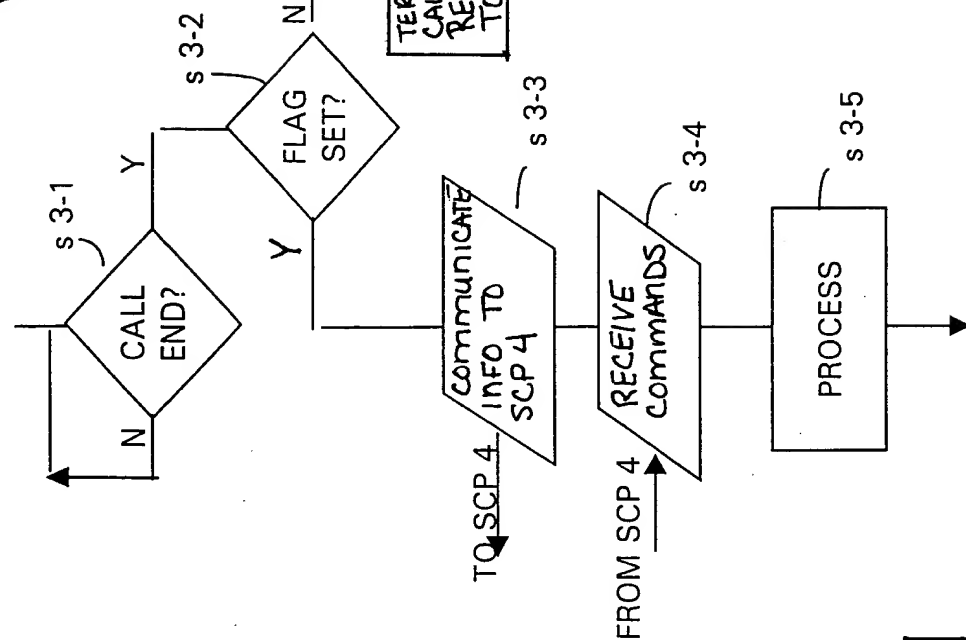


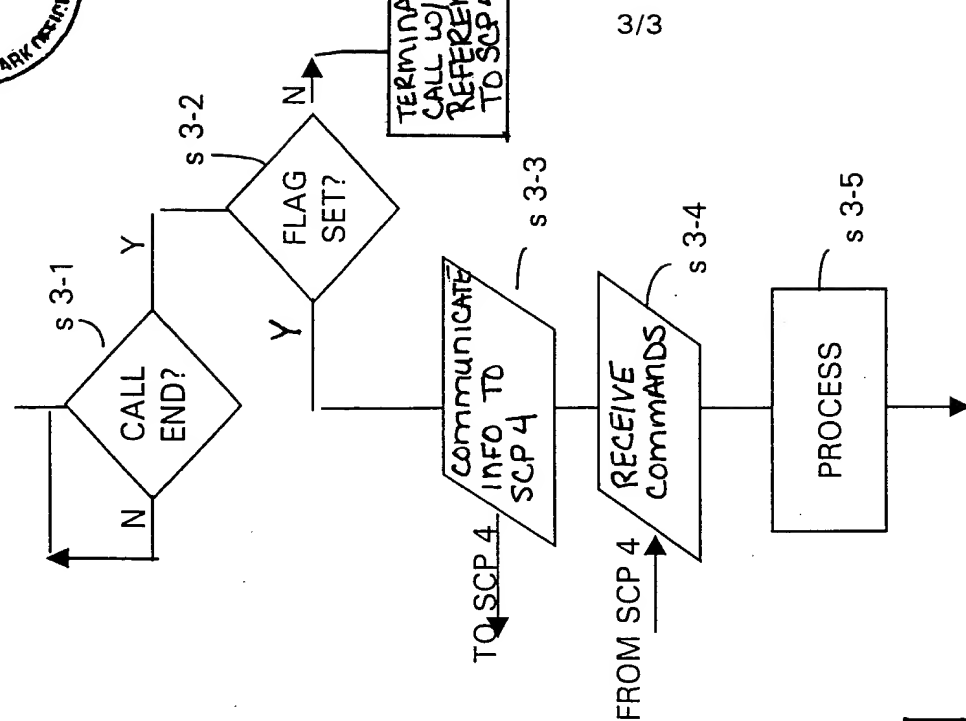
Figure 2



**Figure 3**



**Figure 4**



**Figure 5**